

I oppose loosening the rules designed to promote and protect diversity of media ownership. These rules were adopted to ensure that the public would receive a diverse range of viewpoints from the media, and not simply the opinions of a handful of media conglomerates. The cable ownership

cap is a crucial element of our democratic media, and it should not be weakened.

Having read the Chairman's objections to the regulatory caps, I find his arguments to be disingenuous. The requirement to protect diversity of viewpoints is not so much an issue of competitiveness in the marketplace as it is one of honesty despite self interest. One need look no farther than to the directive issued by the CEO of CNN to downplay or avoid reportage of civilian casualties in Afghanistan. Concentration of ownership of cable/TV media necessarily reduces the available range of HONEST news reportage to the range of corporate interests of the owners. It is NOT in the public interest to reduce the number of news organizations reporting to the public to the lowest number of giant corporations that can gain control of cable/TV media.